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Capitalist science underestimated the significance of this great tradition and, moreover, took from our science the prospect of further development and full support of ideas. It stifled at birth the efforts at independent thought and formed a cultural blockade in preventing relations with the Soviet Union. Physiology was separated from clinical work. Individual representatives of science developed in complete isolation without the help of creative criticism. One of the signs of this decline is the fact that Czechoslovakia had no independent physiological society and no specialized journals in the field. The fascist occupation completed this decline and only the victory of the People's Democracies formed the basis for a new stage in the development of Czechoslovak science. The people's democratic regime allowed science all the necessary means for successful work and further development. Czechoslovak science is beginning to develop and work in a planned manner. Reform of the higher educational institutions has been carried out, the planned education of new cadres, which was made possible after the creation of scientific aspirantships, has begun; and a physiological society has been formed. A very important step was the opening of a central biological institute with a well-equipped scientific physiological department which will serve as the future physiological institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

This scientific physiological department, with the approval of the government, has undertaken the publication of the first Czechoslovak physiological journal and has prepared the contents of the first number. The new journal is not and should not of course be an organ of the Central Institute of Biology, but the organ for general, normal, and pathological physiology; biochemistry; and pharmacology. The journal will be published in Russian /as well as in Czech/ and will thus give Czechoslovak physiologists the chance to bring their work to international attention.

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